This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a build-to-order system using an information appliance to access a browsing interface via a world wide network, said method comprising:

(a) providing a list of configuration choices presented in a graphical user interface, said list comprising available system elements with which said build-to-order system are configured;

(b) receiving a system configuration selection including a combination of system elements selected from said list of configuration choices; and

(c) providing a description of a function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an updated system configuration selection; and

(b) providing an updated description of a function capable of being implemented with said updated system configuration selection.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said available system elements in said list of configuration choices being represented by an icon.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of developing a personal user history file for each user.

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PAGE 5/17 * RCVD AT 4/26/2005 4:49:28 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:605 232 2612 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-22

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said description of a function includes customized information pertaining to each user.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said personal history file includes at least one of a list of prior purchases, a list of browsed products, a current component configuration, and user-provided personal characteristic information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said description of function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection includes at least one of advantages of said selection and suggestions for other selections.

9. (Previously Presented) A program of instructions impressible upon a medium capable of being read by an information appliance for causing an information appliance to implement steps for aiding a user in the selection of components for a build-to-order system, the steps comprising:

(a) providing a list of configuration choices, said list comprising available system elements with which the system may be configured;

(b) receiving a system configuration selection including a combination of system elements selected from said list of configuration choices; and

(c) providing a description of a function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection.

10. (Original) The program of instructions as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an updated system configuration selection; and

(b) providing an updated description of a function capable of being implemented with said updated system configuration selection.

11. (Original) The program of instructions as claimed in claim 9, wherein said list of configuration choices is presented in a graphical user interface.

PAGE 6/17 * RCVD AT 4/26/2005 4:49:28 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:605 232 2612 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-22

12. (Original) The program of instructions as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one of said available system elements in said list of configuration choices being represented by an icon.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of developing a personal user history file for each user.

14. (Original) The program of instructions as claimed in claim 13, wherein said description of a function includes customized information pertaining to each user.

15. (Original) The program of instructions as claimed in claim 13, wherein said personal history file includes at least one of a list of prior purchases, a list of browsed products, a current component configuration, and user-provided personal characteristic information.

16. (Previously Presented) The program of instructions as claimed in claim 9, wherein said description of function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection includes at least one of advantages of said selection and suggestions for other selections.

17. (Previously Presented) A system for aiding a user in the selection, of products for a build-to-order system, comprising:

(a) means for providing a list of configuration choices, said list comprising available system elements with which said system may be configured;

(b) means for receiving a system configuration selection including a combination of system elements selected from said list of configuration choices; and

(c) means for providing a description of a function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection.

18. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

PAGE 7/17 * RCVD AT 4/26/2005 4:49:28 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:605 232 2612 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-22

(a) means for receiving an updated system configuration selection; and

(b) means for providing an updated description of a function capable of being implemented with said updated system configuration selection.

19. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said list of configuration choices is presented in a graphical user interface.

20. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein at least one of said available system elements in said list of configuration choices being represented by an icon.

21. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising means for developing a personal user history file for each user.

22. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said description of a function includes customized information pertaining to each user.

23. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said personal history file includes at least one of a list of prior purchases, a list of browsed products, a current component configuration, and user-provided personal characteristic information.

24. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said description of function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection includes at least one of advantages of said selection and suggestions for other selections.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said system configuration selection comprises selection of a particular configuration of system elements making up a particular system configuration so that said description is of a function of the particular

PAGE 8/17 * RCVD AT 4/26/2005 4:49:28 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:605 232 2612 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-22

system configuration rather than of a function of an individual element of the particular system.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said step of developing a personal user history file for each user includes obtaining information about each user's current products and components, wherein said description of function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection includes comparison information regarding said selection and the user's current products and components.

27. (Previously Presented) The program of instruction as claimed in claim 9, wherein said system configuration selection comprises selection of a particular configuration of system elements making up a particular system configuration so that said description is of a function of the particular system configuration rather than of a function of an individual element of the particular system.

28. (Previously Presented) The program of instruction as claimed in claim 13, wherein said step of developing a personal user history file for each user includes obtaining information about each user's current products and components, wherein said description of a function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection includes comparison information regarding said selection and the user's current products and components.

29. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said system configuration selection comprises selection of a particular configuration of system elements making up a particular system configuration so that said description is of a function of the particular system configuration rather than of a function of an individual element of the particular system.

PAGE 9/17 * RCVD AT 4/26/2005 4:49:28 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:605 232 2612 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-22

30. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said personal history file for each user contains information about each user's current products and components, wherein said description of a function capable of being implemented with said system configuration selection includes comparison information regarding said selection and the user's current products and components.

31. (New) A method for configuring a build-to-order system using an information appliance to access a browsing interface via a world wide network, said method comprising:

(a) providing a list of configuration choices presented in a graphical user interface, said list comprising available system elements with which said build-to-order system are configured;

(b) receiving a system configuration selection including a particular combination of system elements selected from said list of configuration choices; and

(c) providing a description of a function capable of being implemented with the particular combination of system elements comprising said system configuration selection.

PAGE 10/17 * RCVD AT 4/26/2005 4:49:28 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:605 232 2612 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-22

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